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# FEE TRANSMITTAL

## For FY 2006

☐ Applicant Claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/820,377
Filing Date	March 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Daniel F. Williams, et al.
Examiner Name	Jamisia A. Webb
Art Unit	3629
Attorney Docket No.	PSTM0041/MRK

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$ 500.00)**METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)**☒ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_☒ Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: 501574 Deposit Account Name: Khorsandi Patent Law Group, ALC

For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Charges fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 ☒ Credit any overpayments**WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES**

Application Type	FILING FEES		SEARCH FEES		EXAMINATION FEES		Fees Paid (\$)
	Small or Large Entity	Fee (\$)	Small or Large Entity	Fee (\$)	Small or Large Entity	Fee (\$)	
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	\$ .00
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	

**2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES**

Fee Description	Small or Large Entity	Fee (\$)
Each claim over 20 or, for Reissues, each claim over 20 and more than in the original patent	50	25
Each independent claim over 3 or, for Reissues, each independent claim more than in the original patent	200	100
Multiple dependent claims	360	180

<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>Extra Claims</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>	<b>Multiple Dependent Claims</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>
- or HP =	x	\$50.00	=	\$0.00		

HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20

<b>Indep. Claims</b>	<b>Extra Claims</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>	
- or HP =	x	\$200.00	=	\$0.00

HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3

**3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE**

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41 (a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

<b>Total Sheets</b>	<b>Extra Sheets</b>	<b>Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>
100	- 100 = 0	/ 50 = 0	(round up to a whole number) x \$250.00	= \$ 0.00

**4. OTHER FEE(S)**

Non-English Specification, \$130 fee (no small entity discount)

Other: Appeal Brief

500.00

**SUBMITTED BY**

Signature	<i>Marilyn R. Khorsandi</i>	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 45744	Telephone (626) 796-2856
Name (Print/Type)	Marilyn R. Khorsandi	Date	October 30, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
AND  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

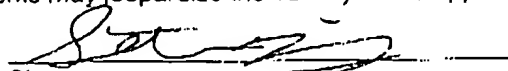
Applicant(s): Daniel F. Williams, et al.	Technology Center: 3600
Serial No.: 09/820,377	Group Art Unit: 3629
Filed: March 27, 2001	Examiner: Webb, Jamisue A.
Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ONLINE, MULTI-PARCEL, MULTI-CARRIER, MULTI-SERVICE ENTERPRISE PARCEL SHIPPING MANAGEMENT	
Attorney Docket No.: PSTM0041/MRK	

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b)

STAMPS.COM INC. is the owner of an undivided whole interest in common with ISHIP INC. in the instant application. Documentary evidence of the chain of title in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 3.73 (b)(1)(ii) is recorded: 1.) in an Assignment of the entire right, title and interest from the Inventors named in the instant application to STAMPS.COM INC. as recorded by the Assignment Division of the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 10, 2001 on Reel No. 012068 and Frame No. 0135; and 2.) in a subsequent Intellectual Property Joint Ownership Agreement Notice of Assignment identifying both STAMPS.COM INC. and ISHIP INC. as Assignees of an undivided whole interest in common in all rights title and interest in and to the instant application as recorded by the Assignment Division of the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 20, 2004 on Reel No. 015231 and Frame No. 0151.

The undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of STAMPS.COM INC.

I heroby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

  
Signature

SETH WEISKER  
Typed or printed name

310-482-5808  
Telephone Number

Oct 5, 2006  
Date

VP + General Counsel  
Title



US Express Mail No. ED32950124045

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
AND  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

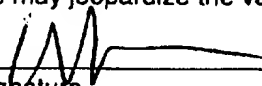
Applicant(s): Daniel F. Williams, et al.	Technology Center: 3600
Serial No.: 09/820,377	Group Art Unit: 3629
Filed: March 27, 2001	Examiner: Webb, Jamisue A.
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The undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of ISHIP INC.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

  
Signature

W. TIM DAVIS

Typed or printed name

858-882-5766

Telephone Number

10/24/06  
Date

GENERAL MANAGER

Title



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## **BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicant : Daniel F. Williams, et al.  
Application No. : 09/820,377  
Filed : March 27, 2001  
Title : Apparatus, Systems and Methods For Online, Multi-Parcel, Multi-Carrier, Multi-Service Enterprise Parcel Shipping Management  
Technology Center: 3600  
Grp./Div. : 3629  
Examiner : Jamisue A. Webb  
Docket No. : PSTM0041/MRK

### **APPEAL BRIEF TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

140 S. Lake Ave., Suite 312  
Pasadena, CA 91101-4710  
October 30, 2006

Commissioner:

Enclosed are the following:

1. Check Number 2205 for the amount of \$500 to cover the Appeal Brief filing fee;
2. FY 2006 Fee Transmittal (in duplicate);
3. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) by Real Party in Interest STAMPS.COM INC.;
4. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) by Real Party in Interest ISHIP INC.;
5. Appeal Brief, including Claims Appendix, Evidence Appendix and Related Proceedings Appendix, (Total 163 pages); and
6. Return post card.

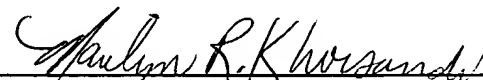
The requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(1) for filing a Notice of Appeal was presented with the filing of the Notice of Appeal which is recorded on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PAIR System as having been received on September 1, 2006.

The requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2) for filing this Appeal Brief is presented herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the Enclosed Appeal Brief is timely filed because it is filed before the expiration of the two-month period from the date of filing the Notice of Appeal, namely, prior to the expiration of Monday, October 30, 2006, which is the first business day following Saturday, October 28, 2006, which is the two-month date following the August 28, 2006 filing date of the Notice of Appeal.

Even so, the Commissioner is hereby authorized, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3), to treat any concurrent or future reply or correspondence for the above-identified application, requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission, as incorporating a constructive petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, including any required extension fees, which may be required during the **pendency** of this application, to Deposit Account No. 501574. Please show our docket number with any charge or credit to our Deposit Account. **A copy of this letter is enclosed.**

Respectfully submitted,  
KHORSANDI PATENT LAW GROUP, ALC

By 

Marilyn R. Khorsandi  
Reg. No. 45,744  
Customer No. 29524  
626/796-2856

MRK/aa  
Enclosures



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PATENT

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicant : Daniel F. Williams, et al.  
Application No. : 09/820,377  
Filed : March 27, 2001  
Title : APPARATUS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR  
ONLINE, MULTI-PARCEL, MULTI-CARRIER, MULTI-  
SERVICE ENTERPRISE PARCEL SHIPPING  
MANAGEMENT  
Grp./Div. : 3629  
Examiner : Webb, Jamisue A.  
Docket No. : PSTM0041/MRK

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

140 S. Lake Ave., Suite 312  
Pasadena, CA 91101-4710  
October 30, 2006

**APPEAL BRIEF**

This is an appeal from a final rejection<sup>1</sup> of the Examiner, dated May 26, 2006, rejecting all claims currently under examination in the case, namely Claims 7, 10-14, and 23-26.

Applicants file this Appeal under 37 C.F.R. §41.31(a), all claims having been twice rejected.

The requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(1) for filing a Notice of Appeal was presented with the filing of the Notice of Appeal which was filed via First Class U.S. Mail on August 28, 2006 with a Certificate of Mailing; the Notice of Appeal is acknowledged on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PAIR System as having been received on September 1, 2006.

<sup>1</sup> On the Office Action Summary, p. 1 of the Office Action, the Office Action is designated a non-final rejection. However, on page 8, in Topic No. 10 of the Office Action; the Office Action states that "This Action is Made Final." In view of the statement made in Topic No. 10 of the Office Action, the Office Action is taken to be a final rejection.

11/01/2006 RHEBRAHT 00000082 09820377 500.00 0P  
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The requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2) for filing this Appeal Brief is presented herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that this Appeal Brief is timely filed because, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §41.37(a)(1) and 37 C.F.R. §1.7(a), it is filed before the expiration of the two-month period from the date of filing the Notice of Appeal, namely, prior to the expiration of Monday, October 30, 2006, which is the first business day following Saturday, October 28, 2006, which is the two-month date following the August 28, 2006 filing date of the Notice of Appeal.

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Application Serial No. 09/820,377  
Appeal Brief

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**REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(i) heading)**

In an Assignment, the Inventors, Daniel F. Williams, et al., assigned the entire right, title and interest in and to the instant application to STAMPS.COM INC., as recorded by the Assignment Division of the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 10, 2001 on Reel No. 012068 and Frame No. 0135. In a subsequent Intellectual Property Joint Ownership Agreement Notice of Assignment, STAMPS.COM INC. noticed the assignment of an undivided whole interest in common in all rights, title, and interest in and to the present application to both STAMPS.COM INC. and ISHIP INC., as recorded by the Assignment Division of the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 20, 2004 on Reel No. 015231 and Frame No. 0151. Statements by both STAMPS.COM INC. and ISHIP INC. under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) are filed concurrently herewith.

ISHIP INC. is a fully owned subsidiary of UNITED PARCEL SERVICE OF AMERICA, INC., which is a fully owned subsidiary of UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC.

Accordingly, STAMPS.COM INC., ISHIP INC., UNITED PARCEL SERVICE OF AMERICA, INC., and UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC. are the real parties in interest in this case.

**RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(ii) heading)**

Applicants have not previously presented the current claim set to the Board in an Appeal Brief and there are no related appeals or interferences known to Appellants, or known to Appellants' legal representative, regarding the current claim set.

However, there is an Appeal pending in the case of related U.S. Patent Application No. 09/684,861 (Applicants Bilibin, Paul et al.; Filed October 6, 2000; Entitled "Apparatus, Systems and Methods for Determining Delivery Time Schedules for Each of Multiple Carriers"; Attorney Docket No. PSTM0024/MRK;

Technology Center 3600; Group/Div. 3623; Examiner Beth Van Doren). No opinion has yet been rendered in that case.

Further, there is an Appeal pending in the case of related U.S. Patent Application No. 09/680,654 (Applicants David Allison Bennett, et al., Filed October 6, 2000; Entitled "Apparatus, Systems and Methods for Online, Multi-Carrier, Multi-Service Parcel Shipping Management Featuring Shipping Rate and Delivery Schedule Comparison for Multiple Carriers"; Attorney Docket No. PSTM0015/MRK; Technology Center 3600; Group/Div. 3629; Examiner Jamisue A. Webb). No opinion has yet been rendered in that case.

Yet further, there is an Appeal pending in the case of related U.S. Patent Application No. 09/685,077 (Applicants Paul Bilibin, et al., Filed October 6, 2000 Entitled "Apparatus, Systems and Methods for Online, Multi-Carrier, Multi-Service Parcel Shipping Management Determination of Ratable Weight for Multiple Carriers"; Technology Center 3600; Grp./Div. 3629; Examiner Jamisue A. Webb; Docket No. PSTM0020/MRK). No opinion has yet been rendered in that case.

Prior to filing an Appeal Brief in the case of the above-mentioned pending Appeal for Application No. 09/684,861, a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review was filed for that application. A copy of the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review for Application No. 09/684,861 is included in the Related Proceedings Appendix hereto.

Further, prior to filing an Appeal Brief in the case of the above-mentioned Appeal for Application No. 09/680,654 a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review was filed for that application. A copy of the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review for Application No. 09/680,654 is included in the Related Proceedings Appendix hereto.

Yet further, prior to filing an Appeal Brief in the case of the above-mentioned Appeal for Application No. 09/685,077, a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review of the March 13, 2006 Office Action was filed. In reply to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, a Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review issued, dated July 21, 2006, indicating the application remained on

appeal; a copy of the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review for Application No. 09/685,077 is included in the Related Proceedings Appendix hereto.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(iii) heading)**

The present application was filed on March 27, 2001, and as recognized in the official Filing Receipt for the present application, claims benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 119(e) to U. S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/192,723, filed March 27, 2000, and to U. S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/193,899, filed March 31, 2000. The present application was filed with original Claims 1-22. Since its filing, new Claims 23-26 were added.

The status of the Claims is as follows:

Allowed Claims: None

Cancelled Claims: None

Withdrawn Claims: Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 15-22

Claims objected to: Objection to claims in Office Action dated May 26, 2006 did not identify specific claims

Rejected Claims: 7, 10-14, and 23-26

**Claims on Appeal:** 7, 10-14, and 23-26

**STATUS OF AMENDMENTS (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(iv) heading)**

No amendments subsequent to the final Office Action, dated May 26, 2006, have been filed.

**SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(v) heading)**

The Claims on Appeal are Claims 7, 10-14, and 23-26. Of the Claims on appeal, Claims 7 and 10 are independent. It is respectfully submitted that none

of the Claims on appeal are means plus function claims.

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v), the subject matter of the independent claims on appeal is explained below with citations to the Specification of the present application ("Specification") as disclosed with respect to exemplary embodiments. Unless otherwise specified, citations below to the Specification are to the application as published, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0032573 A1.

### **Claim 7**

Claim 7 is directed to an online, Internet-based, multi-carrier, multi-parcel shipping management computer system. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 7. See, e.g., Specification, Title; Specification, Abstract.

In Claim 7, the claimed computer system is programmed to receive a request by a first user within an enterprise to ship a parcel, wherein the first user is designated in a memory accessible by the computer system as restricted from finalizing shipping labels, wherein the request comprises a set of partial shipment information, and wherein the set of partial shipment information comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 7. See, e.g., Original Claim 10 (as originally filed, Claim 10 recited: "... designate a particular user within an enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels according to instructions input by an administrator of the enterprise." ); see also, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0130 – 0134 ("Administrator-established privileges [on a System database 52 (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0116 -0118)] for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User.... The System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as:

... Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service..."); Specification, paragraph 0413 ("For shipping circumstances in which a User is not allowed to print an actual shipping label, Users can print "traveler" labels, which help identify pre-processed packages for mailroom personnel to complete."); Specification, paragraph 0447 ("In one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the Desktop User is either not authorized by the Administrator to print Shipping Labels, or is limited by the Administrator to printing Shipping Labels for only certain types of packages, e.g., Letters. In such an embodiment, the Administrator enables a Shipping Station for the Desktop User. In some cases, a particular Desktop User may decide to not finalize shipping and delegate the actual shipping to some other user within the Enterprise. For example, if the Desktop User is not certain of the weight of a package, the Desktop User, even if that user has shipping lab[el] printing privileges, may decide to print a traveler label, attach the traveler label to the package, and forward the package to a Shipping Station User to complete shipping."); Specification, paragraph 0448 (referring to FIG. 55, the specification explains that "[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package."); Specification, paragraph 0449 (referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the specification further explains that "[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information



necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.").

In Claim 7, the claimed computer system is further programmed to, in response to the request by the first user to ship the parcel: (A) generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises at least a machine-readable code that corresponds to the request, (B) save in the memory accessible by the computer system, a relationship between the machine-readable code and the set of partial shipment information, and (C) print the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein said printed printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises an expression of the machine-readable code. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 7. See, e.g., Specification, FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label); Specification, paragraph 0448 (referring to FIG. 55, the specification explains that "[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package."); Specification, paragraph 0449 (referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label); the specification further explains that "[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.")

In Claim 7, the claimed computer system is further programmed to receive an input for finalizing a shipping label for shipping the parcel from a second user within the enterprise, wherein the second user is designated in the memory accessible by the computer system as authorized to finalize shipping labels, wherein said input comprises the machine-readable code. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 7. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph 0448 (referring to FIG. 55, the specification explains that "[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package."); Specification, paragraph 0449 (referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the specification further explains that "[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.").

In Claim 7, the claimed computer system is further programmed to retrieve from the memory the set of partial shipment information according to the machine-readable code. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 7. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph 0448 (referring to FIG. 55, the specification explains that "[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The

User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package."); Specification, paragraph 0449 (referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the specification further explains that "[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.").

In Claim 7, the claimed computer system is further programmed to generate a shipping label comprising at least a first item of information from the set of partial shipment information and according to the input from the second user. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 7. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph 0448 (referring to FIG. 55, the specification explains that "[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package."); Specification, paragraph 0449 (referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the specification further

explains that "[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.").

**Claim 10**

Claim 10 is directed to an online, Internet-based, multi-carrier, multi-parcel shipping management computer system. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 10. See, e.g., Specification, Title; Specification, Abstract.

In Claim 10, the claimed computer system is programmed to, according to a first set of instructions input by an administrator of an enterprise, designate in a memory accessible by the computer system, a first set of shipping privilege settings identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 10. See, e.g., Original Claim 10 (as originally filed, Claim 10 recited: "... designate a particular user within an enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels according to instructions input by an administrator of the enterprise." ); see also, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0130 – 0134 ("Administrator-established privileges [on a System database 52 (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0116 -0118)] for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User.... The System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as: ... Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service..."); Specification, paragraph 0413 ("For shipping circumstances in which a User is not allowed to print an actual shipping label, Users can print "traveler" labels, which help identify preprocessed packages for mailroom personnel to complete."); Specification,

paragraph 0447 ("In one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the Desktop User is either not authorized by the Administrator to print Shipping Labels, or is limited by the Administrator to printing Shipping Labels for only certain types of packages, e.g., Letters. In such an embodiment, the Administrator enables a Shipping Station for the Desktop User. In some cases, a particular Desktop User may decide to not finalize shipping and delegate the actual shipping to some other user within the Enterprise. For example, if the Desktop User is not certain of the weight of a package, the Desktop User, even if that user has shipping lab[el] printing privileges, may decide to print a traveler label, attach the traveler label to the package, and forward the package to a Shipping Station User to complete shipping."); Specification, paragraph 0448 (referring to FIG. 55, the specification explains that "[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package."); Specification, paragraph 0449 (referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the specification further explains that "[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.").

In Claim 10, the claimed computer system is further programmed to, according to a second set of instructions input by the administrator, designate in the memory, a second set of shipping privilege settings identifying at least a second user within the enterprise as authorized to print shipping labels according

to a pre-processing shipping request by any user of the plurality of users. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 10. See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0130 – 0134 ("Administrator-established privileges [on a System database 52 (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0116 -0118)] for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User.... The System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as: ... Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service..."); Specification, paragraph 0413 ("For shipping circumstances in which a User is not allowed to print an actual shipping label, Users can print "traveler" labels, which help identify preprocessed packages for mailroom personnel to complete."); Specification, paragraph 0447 ("In one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the Desktop User is either not authorized by the Administrator to print Shipping Labels, or is limited by the Administrator to printing Shipping Labels for only certain types of packages, e.g., Letters. In such an embodiment, the Administrator enables a Shipping Station for the Desktop User. In some cases, a particular Desktop User may decide to not finalize shipping and delegate the actual shipping to some other user within the Enterprise. For example, if the Desktop User is not certain of the weight of a package, the Desktop User, even if that user has shipping lab[el] printing privileges, may decide to print a traveler label, attach the traveler label to the package, and forward the package to a Shipping Station User to complete shipping.").

In Claim 10, the claimed computer system is further programmed to, in response to an input by a first user of the plurality of users, display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privilege settings. Various portions of the Specification disclose support for the aforementioned limitations in various exemplary embodiments of the aforementioned limitations of Claim 10. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph 259 ("FIG. 28 is a graphic representation of an

exemplary Shipping Payment Screen in an exemplary embodiment of the invention that is displayed when a package is to be shipped. The System populates the data fields displayed in the Screen with default information according to the Administrator settings, User preferences ...."); Specification, paragraph 0184, ("The Carrier Info Preferences Screen [depicted in FIG. 18] displays the default Carrier Preference settings established by the Administrator, and to the extent authorized by the Administrator, allows the User to edit the Carrier Preferences."); Specification, paragraph 0186 ("As depicted in FIG. 19, the Drop Off/Pickup Preferences Screen displays the default Drop Off and Pickup locations set by the Administrator. To the extent authorized by the Administrator, the User can edit the Drop Off and Pickup locations. Each Carrier, e.g., 150 USPS, authorized for use by the Administrator, is displayed on the Drop Off/Pickup Preferences Screen.").

**GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL (37 C.F.R.**  
**§41.37(c)(1)(vi) heading)**

**Issue 1 Regarding the Rejection of Claims 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14 Under 35**  
**U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph**

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, "as failing to comply with the written description requirement." Office Action, Topic No. 4, p. 3. In rejecting Claims 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 under Section 112, the Office Action states that "[t]he claims(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention." Office Action, Topic No. 4, p. 3. In rejecting Claims 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 under Section 112, the Office Action referred to an "objection to amendment" section of the Office Action for reasoning as to the rejection under Section 112. Office Action, Topic No. 4, p. 3.

**Issue 1a Regarding the §112 Rejection of Claims 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14  
With Respect to the “Restricted From Finalizing Shipping Labels”  
Limitation**

In the referred-to "objection to amendment" section of the Office Action, earlier-filed amendments were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 (a) as introducing new matter not supported by the original specification. Office Action, Topic Nos. 1-2, pgs. 2-3. Specifically, the following limitation was objected to:

...the first user is designated in a memory accessible by the computer system as restricted from finalizing shipping labels.

See Office Action, Topic No. 1, p. 2.

The Office Action states that "the specification talks about users being able to finalize shipping labels, but not specifically disclose the system designating users as being 'restricted from finalizing the shipping labels' does not appear in the specification...". Office Action, Topic No. 1, p. 2. The Office Action concludes that the specification does not support the objected to limitation and states that "[a]pplicant is required to cancel the new matter in reply to this Office Action." Office Action, Topic No. 2, p. 3. The Office Action did not identify the specific Claims objected to under Section 132(a). However, the Office Action later rejected Claims 7, 11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on similar grounds "as failing to comply with the written description requirement." Office Action, Topic No. 2, p. 3.

**Issue 1b Regarding the §112 Rejection of Claims 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14  
With Respect to the “Display ... Options” Limitation**

In the referred-to "objection to amendment" section of the Office Action, in addition to the above-mentioned objection to the "... restricted from finalizing shipping labels ..." limitation, the Office Action also objected to the limitation "in response to an input by a first user of the plurality of users, display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the



first set of shipping privileges.” Office Action, Topic No. 2, p. 2. The Office Action found the limitation to be new matter and invited citation to the specification to show support for the limitation. Office Action, Topic No. 2, p. 2-3.

**Issue 2 Regarding the Rejection of Claims 7, 10-14 and 23-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Gendreau in View of Stefik**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 7, 10-14 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gendreau (U.S. Publication No. US 2001/0034608; "Gendreau") in view of Stefik et al., (US Publication No. US 2003/0115144; "Stefik"). Office Action, Topic No. 2, p. 3.

**Issue 2a Regarding the Combination of Stefik With Gendreau Under MPEP §706.02(i)**

**Issue 2b Regarding the Rejection of Claims 7, 23, 24, and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Unpatentable over Gendreau in View of Stefik**

**Issue 2c Regarding the Rejection of Claims 10, 11-14, and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Unpatentable over Gendreau in View of Stefik**

**Issue 3 Regarding the Rejection of Claims 10-14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Gendreau in View of Stefik and Further in View of Kara**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gendreau in view of Stefik and further in view of Kara (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,568; "Kara"). Office Action, Topic No. 5, p. 5.

**ARGUMENT (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) heading)**

**Issue 1 Argument Regarding the Rejection of Claims 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph**

It is respectfully submitted, for the reasons given and authorities cited below, that the "restricted from finalizing shipping labels" limitation and the

"display ... options" limitation are fully supported by the Specification as required under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and further, therefore, do not introduce new matter as prohibited under 35 U.S.C. § 132 (a).

**Issue 1a-1 Argument Regarding the §112 Rejection of Claim 7 With Respect to the "Restricted From Finalizing Shipping Labels" Limitation: The Previously-Filed Amendments Did Not Add Any New Matter and the "Restricted From Finalizing Shipping Labels" Limitation of Claim 7 is Fully Supported by the Specification as Required Under the First Paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

It is respectfully asserted that in order to comply with the written description requirement of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, the "restricted from finalizing shipping labels" limitation of Claim 7 does not need to be expressly stated word-for-word in the Specification. See e.g., MPEP §2163.02 ("The subject matter of the claim need not be described literally (*i.e.*, using the same terms or *in haec verba*) in order for the disclosure to satisfy the description requirement"); see also, e.g., University of Rochester v. G.D. Searle & Co., Inc., 358 F.3d 916, 922-23, 69 U.S.P.Q.2d 1886, 1892 (Fed. Cir. 2004), *reh'g en banc denied*, 375 F.3d 1303, 71 U.S.P.Q.2d 545 (Fed. Cir. 2004), *cert. denied*, 543 U.S. 1015, 125 S. Ct. 629 (2004) ("...this court and its predecessor have repeatedly held that claimed subject matter 'need not be described in haec verba' in the specification to satisfy the written description requirement, e.g., *In re Smith*, 481 F.2d 910, 914 (CCPA 1973) ...").

For the reasons given below, it is respectfully asserted that even if the "... restricted from finalizing shipping labels ..." limitation recited by Claim 7 is not expressly stated word-for-word in the Specification, the limitation is fully supported by the Specification of the present application as required under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

First, it is respectfully asserted that “restricted from printing shipping labels,” a limitation that is both expressly recited by an original Claim (Claim 10, which recited: “... restricted from printing shipping labels ....”) and that is expressly described in the Specification, is one form of “finalizing a shipping label” as recited by independent Claim 7. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph 0448 (Referring to FIG. 55, the Specification explains that “[t]he User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System’s databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package.”); see also, e.g., Specification, paragraph 0449 (Referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the Specification further explains that “[a]s was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.”).

Because, for the reasons given above, it is respectfully submitted that “... printing shipping labels ...” is one form of “... finalizing shipping labels ...”, it is therefore respectfully submitted that the recited “... *restricted from printing shipping labels* ...” limitation, provided by original Claim 10, satisfies the written description requirement under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 for the “restricted from finalizing shipping labels” limitation recited by Claim 7. See Union Oil Co. of California v. Atlantic Richfield Co., 208 F.3d 989, 998, n.4, 54 U.S.P.Q.2d 1227, 1236, n.4 (Fed. Cir. 2000), *cert. denied*, 531 U.S. 1183, 121 S. Ct. 1167 (2001) (“One of this court's predecessor courts clarified that disclosure

in an originally filed claim satisfies the written description requirement. See In re Gardner, 480 F.2d 879, [879-]880, 178 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 149[, 149] (CCPA 1973) ("Under these circumstances, we consider the original claim in itself adequate 'written description' of the claimed invention. It was equally a 'written description' ... whether located among the original claims or in the descriptive part of the specification.").").

Further, it is respectfully submitted that that the below-cited disclosures by the Specification, for example, when read together, comprise written description support of the "restricted from finalizing shipping labels" limitation recited by Claim 7 as required under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Specification discloses Administrator privileges for controlling the functionality of the system as can be used by other users:

Administrator-established privileges [on a System database 52 (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0116 -0118)] for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User.... The System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as: ... Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service....

Specification, paragraphs 0130 – 0134.

The Specification explains a non-final action that a User, who is not authorized to print a shipping label, can take:

For shipping circumstances in which a User is not allowed to print an actual shipping label, Users can print "traveler" labels, which help identify pre-processed packages for mailroom personnel to complete.

Specification, paragraph 0413.

It is respectfully asserted that the Specification discloses that printing shipping labels is one form of finalizing shipping labels, in that in the citation provided below, the Specification explains that a User that does not print a shipping label does not finalize shipping, but rather delegates finalizing shipping to another User who would print a shipping label and complete shipping:

In one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the Desktop User is either not authorized by the Administrator to print Shipping Labels, or is limited by the Administrator to printing Shipping Labels for only certain types of packages, e.g., Letters. In such an embodiment, the Administrator enables a Shipping Station for the Desktop User. In some cases, a particular Desktop User may decide to not finalize shipping and delegate the actual shipping to some other user within the Enterprise. For example, if the Desktop User is not certain of the weight of a package, the Desktop User, even if that user has shipping lab[el] printing privileges, may decide to print a traveler label, attach the traveler label to the package, and forward the package to a Shipping Station User to complete shipping.

Specification, paragraph 0447.

Referring to FIG. 55, the following citations to the Specification explain that a user that requests printing of a Traveler Label does not finalize the corresponding shipping label; rather, the corresponding shipping label is finalized via the described Shipping Station:

The User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package.

Specification, paragraph 0448. Referring to FIG. 56 (which depicts an exemplary traveler label), the Specification further explains that:

As was described above in relation to 345-351 depicted in FIG. 55, the System uses the retrieved package and shipping information, e.g., 363 and 364, to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label.

Specification, paragraph 0449.

It is respectfully asserted that, because the above-cited references in the Specification, read together, fully support the objected-to "restricted from finalizing shipping labels" limitation, the claims as previously amended are therefore supported by the written description of the Specification, and therefore, did not introduce new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 7 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 be reversed.

**Issue 1a-2 Argument Regarding the §112 Rejection of Claims 10, 11, 13, and 14 With Respect to the "Finalizing Shipping Labels"**

**Limitation: None of Claims 10, 11, 13 and 14 Include the "Finalizing Shipping Labels" Limitation (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

First, it is respectfully submitted that none of Claims 10, 11, 13 and 14 include the limitation of "finalizing shipping labels." Rather, Claim 10 recites "... a first set of shipping privilege settings identifying each user of a plurality of users ... as restricted from printing shipping labels ...."

As originally filed, Claim 10 recited: "... designate a particular user within an enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels according to instructions input by an administrator of the enterprise."

It is respectfully submitted that because the recitation "... restricted from printing shipping labels ..." was provided by an original claim, namely Claim 10, that recitation was part of the specification, and therefore satisfies the written description requirement under section 112. See Union Oil Co. of California v. Atlantic Richfield Co., 208 F.3d 989, 998, n.4, 54 U.S.P.Q.2d 1227, 1236, n.4 (Fed. Cir. 2000), *cert. denied*, 531 U.S. 1183, 121 S. Ct. 1167 (2001) ("One of this court's predecessor courts clarified that disclosure in an originally filed claim satisfies the written description requirement. See In re Gardner, 480 F.2d 879, [879-]880, 178 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 149[, 149] (CCPA 1973) ("Under these circumstances, we consider the original claim in itself adequate 'written description' of the claimed invention. It was equally a 'written description' ... whether located among the original claims or in the descriptive part of the

specification.")."). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent Claim 10, and Claims 11, 13 and 14 that are dependent on Claim 10, under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, be reversed.

**Issue 1b-1 Argument Regarding the §112 Rejection of Claim 7 With Respect to the “Display ... Options” Limitation: Claim 7 Does Not Include the “Display ... Options” Limitation (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

As described previously above, the Office Action objected to the limitation to “...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges...” and subsequently rejected Claim 7 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 7 does not include the limitation to “...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges.”

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 7 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, be reversed.

**Issue 1b-2 Argument Regarding the §112 Rejection of Claims 10, 11, 13, and 14 With Respect to the “Display ... Options” Limitation: The Previously-Filed Amendments Did Not Add Any New Matter and the “Display ... Options” Limitation is Fully Supported by the Specification as Required Under the First Paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

First, it is respectfully asserted that in order to comply with the written description requirement of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, the “...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges...” limitation of Claim 10 does not need to be expressly stated word-for-word in the Specification. See e.g., MPEP §2163.02 (“The subject matter of the claim need not be described literally (i.e.,

using the same terms or *in haec verba*) in order for the disclosure to satisfy the description requirement"); see also, e.g., University of Rochester v. G.D. Searle & Co., Inc., 358 F.3d 916, 922-23, 69 U.S.P.Q.2d 1886, 1892 (Fed. Cir. 2004), *reh'g en banc denied*, 375 F.3d 1303, 71 U.S.P.Q.2d 545 (Fed. Cir. 2004), *cert. denied*, 543 U.S. 1015, 125 S. Ct. 629 (2004) ("...this court and its predecessor have repeatedly held that claimed subject matter 'need not be described in haec verba' in the specification to satisfy the written description requirement, e.g., *In re Smith*, 481 F.2d 910, 914 (CCPA 1973) ...").

Further, for the reasons given below, it is respectfully asserted that even if the "...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges..." limitation of Claim 10 is not expressly stated word-for-word in the Specification, the limitation is fully supported by the Specification of the present application as required under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

For example, the Specification explains that "Administrator-established privileges [on a System database 52 (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0116 - 0118)] for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User.... The System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as: ... Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service...." Specification, paragraphs 0130 – 0134.

In view of the above-outlined description by the Specification of the Administrator privileges to control the functionality [of various embodiments of the System] available to a particular User, the Specification further explains, with reference to FIG. 28, which is a graphic representation of an exemplary Shipping Payment Screen in an exemplary embodiment of the invention that is displayed when a package is to be shipped, "... [t]he System populates the data fields displayed in the Screen with default information according to the Administrator settings, User preferences ....." Specification, paragraph 259.

In view of the above-outlined description of the Administrator privileges to control the functionality [of various embodiments of the System] available to a



particular User, and in view of the above-outlined description by the Specification that the System populates data fields of a Screen displayed by the System according to Administrator settings, it is respectfully asserted therefore, that the "...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges..." limitation is fully supported by the Specification of the present application as required under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent Claim 10 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, be reversed.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that none of Claims 11, 13, and 14, which are dependent on Claim 10, include the "...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges..." limitation. Accordingly, because, for the reasons described above, the "...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privileges..." limitation of Claim 10 is fully supported by the Specification of the present application as required under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of dependent Claims 11, 13, and 14 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, be reversed.

**Issue 2 Argument Regarding the Rejection of Claims 7, 10-14 and 23-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

For the reasons given, and the authorities cited, below, it is respectfully asserted that none of the references of record, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose, anticipate teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claims 7, 10-14, and 23-26.

**Issue 2a-1 Argument Regarding the Combination of Stefik With Gendreau Under MPEP §706.02(j) With Respect to the Rejection of Claims 7, 23, 24, and 25 Under Section 103(a): There is no Teaching or Suggestion, as Required Under MPEP §706.02(j), to Combine Stefik with Gendreau With Respect to the Limitations of Claims 7, 23, 24, and 25 (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

It is respectfully asserted that there is no teaching or suggestion, as required under MPEP §706.02(j), to combine Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of Claim 7 under Section 103(a). See also MPEP §2143.

The Office Action states that “Gendreau ... fails to disclose the computer system being capable of assigning printing rights to a user, whether the user is designated as being able to print a shipping label, and finalize a shipping label.” Office Action, Topic No. 4, p. 4.

In the Office Action, the reasoning given for combining Stefik with Gendreau is that “[i]t would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gendreau, to allow for the restricting of printing and finalizing documents, in order to control the use of a digital work ....” Office Action, Topic No. 4, pgs. 4-5.

In order to consider the case for combining Stefik with Gendreau, it may first be helpful to examine the following disclosures of Stefik.

Stefik discloses “[a] digital work for use within a rights management system for controlling use of the digital work in accordance with usage rights... The usage rights specify a manner of use for the content.” Stefik, Abstract.

Stefik discloses “[a] system for controlling the distribution and use of digital works using digital tickets ...” Stefik, paragraph 0015. Stefik describes that:

A ticket is an indicator that the ticket holder has already paid for or is otherwise entitled to some specified right, product or service. In the present invention, a “digital ticket” is used to enable the ticket holder to exercise usage rights specifying the requirement of the digital ticket. Usage rights are used to define how a digital work may be used or distributed. Specific instances of usage rights are used to indicate a particular manner of use or distribution. A usage right may specify a digital ticket which must be present before the right may be exercised. For example, a digital ticket may be specified in a Copy right of a digital work,

so that exercise of the Copy right requires the party that desires a copy of the digital work be in possession of the necessary digital ticket. After a copy of the digital work is successfully sent to the requesting party, the digital ticket is "punched" to indicate that a copy of the digital work has been made. When the ticket is "punched" a predetermined number of times, it may no longer be used.

Stefik, paragraph 0015. According to Stefik:

Digital works are stored in repositories. Repositories enforce the usage rights for digital works. Each repository has a "generic ticket agent" which punches tickets. In some instances only the generic ticket agent is necessary. In other instances, punching by a "special ticket agent" residing on another repository may be desired. Punching by a "special ticket agent" enables greater security and control of the digital work. For example, it can help prevent digital ticket forgery. Special ticket agents are also useful in situations where an external database needs to be updated or checked.

Stefik, paragraph 0016.

Stefik explains that "[a] digital ticket is merely an instance of a digital work. Thus, a digital ticket may be distributed among repositories in the same fashion as other digital works." Stefik, paragraph 0017. According to Stefik:

A digital ticket may be used in many commercial scenarios such as in the purchase of software and prepaid upgrades. A digital ticket may also be used to limit the number of times that a right may be exercised. For example, a user may purchase a copy of a digital work, along with the right to make up to 5 Copies. In this case, the Copy right would have associated therewith a digital ticket that can be punched up to 5 times. Other such commercial scenarios will become apparent from the detailed description.

Stefik, paragraph 0018. In Stefik:

The present invention is directed to supporting commercial transactions involving digital works. The transition to digital works profoundly and fundamentally changes how creativity and commerce can work. It changes the cost of transporting or storing works because digital property is almost "massless." Digital property can be transported at electronic speeds and requires almost no warehousing. Keeping an unlimited supply of virtual copies on hand requires essentially no more space than keeping one copy

on hand. The digital medium also lowers the costs of alteration, reuse and billing.

Stefik, paragraph 0038. A key feature of Stefik is described as:

... usage rights are permanently "attached" to the digital work. Copies made of a digital work will also have usage rights attached. Thus, the usage rights and any associated fees assigned by a creator and subsequent distributor will always remain with a digital work.

Stefik, paragraph 0041.

First, it is respectfully submitted that, according to the above-outlined disclosures of Stefik, Stefik discloses attaching usage *rights* for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work. See, e.g., Stefik, paragraph 0041 ("... usage rights are permanently "attached" to the digital work.").

It is respectfully submitted that the "control the use of a digital work" reasoning given in the Office Action for combining Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of independent Claim 7 (Office Action, Topic No. 4, pgs. 4-5), is misplaced in view of the above-outlined disclosures of Stefik regarding the attachment of usage rights for particular digital works to the particular existing digital works. As compared to attaching a usage right for a particular existing digital work to the existing digital work as disclosed in Stefik, Claim 7 is directed to indicating for a particular user, whether or not the user is restricted from taking a particular action, namely, "finalizing shipping labels." As compared to attaching a Stefik usage right to a particular pre-existing digital work, such as, for example, a Stefik "...right to make [a copy]..." of the digital work, Claim 7 is directed to "...generat[ing] a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label ..." for a user that is "restricted from finalizing shipping labels."

In the case of Stefik, a Stefik usage right is directly related to the existing digital work to which it is attached. As compared to a Stefik usage right that is directly related to the existing digital work to which it is attached, Claim 7 is

directed to taking a creative action (namely, “generating”) for a digital work (namely a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label”) according to a restriction for a particular requesting user. In particular, Claim 7 recites “... generat[ing] a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label ...”, “... in response to the request by [a] user to ship the parcel ...” for a user that is “...restricted from finalizing shipping labels ....”

It is respectfully asserted that, in view of the above-described distinctions between the disclosures of Stefik and the subject matter of independent Claim 7, there is no teaching or suggestion, as required under MPEP §706.02(j), to combine Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of Claim 7, and therefore with respect to the subject matter of the Claims that are dependent on Claim 7, namely, Claims 23, 24, and 25, under Section 103(a). See also MPEP §2143. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 7, 23, 24 and 25 that rely on Stefik be reversed.

**Issue 2a-2 Argument Regarding the Combination of Stefik With Gendreau Under MPEP §706.02(j) With Respect to the Rejection of Claims 10-14 and 26 Under Section 103(a): There is no Teaching or Suggestion, as Required Under MPEP §706.02(j), to Combine Stefik with Gendreau With Respect to the Limitations of Claims 10-14 and 26 (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

It is respectfully asserted, for the reasons given below, that there is no teaching or suggestion, as required under MPEP §706.02(j), to combine Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of independent Claim 10 under Section 103(a). See also MPEP §2143.

In rejecting Claim 10 in view of Stefik, the Office Action stated that “Stefik discloses a computer system that is programmed to: ... According to a first set of instructions input by an administrator of an enterprise, designate in a memory accessible by the computer system a setting for a user to be restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests ....” Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5.

First, as compared to the reasoning in the Office Action to support combining Stefik with Gendreau that “Stefik discloses ... designat[ing] ... a setting for a user to be restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests ....” (Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5), it is respectfully submitted that, according to the disclosures of Stefik previously outlined above, Stefik discloses attaching usage *rights* for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work. See, e.g., Stefik, paragraph 0041 (“... usage rights are permanently “attached” to the digital work.”).

It is respectfully submitted that the “user ...restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests” reasoning given in the Office Action for combining Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of independent Claim 10 (Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5), is based on disclosures of Stefik regarding the attachment of usage rights for particular digital works to the particular existing digital works. In particular, the rejection of Claim 10 cites paragraphs 0065-0067 of Stefik, which state, among other things, that “[i]t is fundamental to the present invention that the usage rights are treated as part of the digital work. As the digital work is distributed, the scope of the granted usage rights will remain the same or may be narrowed.” Stefik, ¶0065,

As compared to attaching a usage right for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work as disclosed in Stefik, Claim 10 is directed to indicating for each user of a plurality of users, a restriction from taking a particular action, namely, “printing shipping labels.” In particular, Claim 10 recites “...designate in a memory accessible by the computer system, a first set of shipping privilege settings identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests ....”

It is respectfully asserted that the perspective of attaching a Stefik usage right for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work is different from the perspective of Claim 10 of an input by an administrator (for an enterprise) of instructions regarding shipping privilege settings for users within

the enterprise identifying the users "...as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests ...." In particular, as described by the Specification regarding an exemplary embodiment, "... the administrator can assign different User privileges. Administrator-established privileges for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User. On a Group basis, the System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as:"

- 1) Availability of defined Carriers (including carrier accounts), Carrier services, and Carrier service options in the Ship It and Price It functions of the Shipping System;
- 2) Availability of Price It and Ship It functional areas;
- 3) Availability of defined drop-off locations;
- 4) *Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service;*
- 5) Availability of different payment methods;
- 6) The rate set(s) to use;
- 7) Ability to use the Desktop function, the Shipping Station function, or both (in one embodiment, the Shipping Station function is shipping-label-print-capable and the Desktop function is not);
- 8) Ability to run End of Day processing.

Specification, ¶¶0130 – 0138 (emphasis added). That is, according to the above-cited disclosure of the Specification of the present application describing an exemplary embodiment, the shipping labels for which an administrator would input restrictions, would not yet have been created at the time of the input of the restrictions by the administrator.

Further, as compared to the reasoning to support combining Stefik with Gendreau that "Stefik discloses... designat[ing] ... a setting for a user to be restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests ...." (Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5), it is respectfully submitted that, there is no disclosure in Stefik of the limitation of Claim 10 of "...identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests ...." The Specification discloses

exemplary actions with respect to an exemplary embodiment for submitting pre-processing shipping requests:

The User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package.

Specification, paragraph 0448. It is respectfully submitted that there is no disclosure in Stefik of an authorization of a user to submit a pre-processing request.

It is respectfully asserted that, in view of the above-described distinctions between the disclosures of Stefik and the subject matter of independent Claim 10, there is no teaching or suggestion, as required under MPEP §706.02(j), to combine Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of Claim 10, and therefore with respect to the subject matter of the Claims that are dependent on Claim 10, namely, Claims 11-14, and Claim 26, under Section 103(a). See also MPEP §2143. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 10, and 11-14 that rely on Stefik be reversed.

**Issue 2b Argument Regarding the Rejection of Claims 7, 23, 24, and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Unpatentable over Gendreau in View of Stefik: (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

For the reasons given below, it is respectfully asserted that neither Gendreau nor Stefik, whether considered alone or in combination with any other reference of record, anticipates, discloses, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of amended independent Claim 7, or of Claims 23, 24, and 25 that are dependent on Claim 7.



Independent Claim 7 is directed to an online, Internet-based, multi-carrier, multi-parcel shipping management computer system that is programmed to:

receive a request by a first user within an enterprise to ship a parcel, wherein the first user is designated in a memory accessible by the computer system as restricted from finalizing shipping labels, wherein the request comprises a set of partial shipment information, and wherein the set of partial shipment information comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information;

in response to the request by the first user to ship the parcel: (A) generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises at least a machine-readable code that corresponds to the request, (B) save in the memory accessible by the computer system, a relationship between the machine-readable code and the set of partial shipment information, and (C) print the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein said printed printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises an expression of the machine-readable code;

receive an input for finalizing a shipping label for shipping the parcel from a second user within the enterprise, wherein the second user is designated in the memory accessible by the computer system as authorized to finalize shipping labels, wherein said input comprises the machine-readable code;

retrieve from the memory the set of partial shipment information according to the machine-readable code; and

generate a shipping label comprising at least a first item of information from the set of partial shipment information and according to the input from the second user.

It is respectfully asserted that neither Stefik nor Gendreau, whether considered alone or in combination with any other reference of record, anticipates, discloses, teaches or suggests, for example, the limitations recited in independent Claim 7 that the claimed system will "... generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label ... compris[ing] ... a machine-readable code ..." and will save in a memory "... a relationship between the machine-readable code and the set of partial shipment information ..." for a request to ship a parcel.

As compared to generating a machine-readable code as recited in Claim 7 and saving a relationship between the machine-readable code and information related to a shipping request, Gendreau discloses a label containing "...

computer-readable information relating to at least one of a destination, level of service (e.g., delivery date), and delivery mode of the parcel ..." and further discloses "... input[ting] the computer-readable information into the computer system 18 ...". Gendreau, paragraph [0032]. That is, as compared to the subject matter of Claim 7 wherein the machine readable code is generated and saved by the claimed system, the information in Gendreau pre-exists, e.g., was created as the box is manufactured or when an order is packaged in the box (see, e.g., Gendreau, paragraph 0032) and must be "input" into the Gendreau system.

Further, as compared to "...sav[ing] in the memory accessible by the computer system, a relationship between the machine-readable code and the set of partial shipment information ..." as recited in, e.g., Claim 7, Gendreau discloses that "... an input device 20, such as a bar code scanner, is used to read the computer-readable information relating to at least one of a destination, level of service (e.g., delivery date), and delivery mode of the parcel and to input the computer-readable information into the computer system 18..." Gendreau, paragraph [0032]. That is, as compared to the subject matter of, e.g., Claim 7, wherein a relationship between a machine-readable code and shipment information is saved, Gendreau discloses reading the shipment information from an invoice.

Yet further, in view of the disclosures of Stefik previously outlined above, Stefik discloses attaching usage *rights* for a pre-existing digital work with the pre-existing digital work (See, e.g., Stefik, paragraph 0041 ("... usage rights are permanently "attached" to the digital work.)); whereas Claim 7 recites that a "... first user is designated in a memory accessible by the computer system as restricted from finalizing shipping labels ...." It is respectfully asserted that the recitation by Claim 7 of a restriction from finalizing shipping labels is a designation of a restriction associated with the user for taking a type of action, as compared to a right attached to a particular digital work.

Further, as compared to attaching a Stefik usage right to a pre-existing digital work, Claim 7 is directed to generating a digital work (“a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label”) according to a restriction for a particular requesting user -- namely, Claim 7 recites “... generat[ing] a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label ...”, “... in response to the request by [a] user to ship the parcel ...” for a user that is designated in a memory as being “...restricted from finalizing shipping labels ....”

In view of the above-described distinctions between the disclosures of Stefik and Gendreau on the one hand, and Claim 7, and therefore the Claims dependent on Claim 7, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 7, 23, 24 and 25 be reversed.

**Issue 2c Argument Regarding the Rejection of Claims 10, 11-14, and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Unpatentable over Gendreau in View of Stefik: There is No Disclosure in Stefik or Gendreau of Displaying Interactive Graphic User Interface Shipping Selection Options According to Administrative Settings (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

It is respectfully asserted that neither Stefik nor Gendreau, whether considered alone or in combination with any of the prior art references of record, anticipates, discloses, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of independent Claim 10. Independent Claim 10 is directed to an online, Internet-based, multi-carrier, multi-parcel shipping management computer system that is programmed to:

according to a first set of instructions input by an administrator of an enterprise, designate in a memory accessible by the computer system, a first set of shipping privilege settings identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests;

according to a second set of instructions input by the administrator, designate in the memory, a second set of shipping privilege settings identifying at least a second user within the enterprise as authorized to print shipping labels according to a pre-processing shipping request by any user of the plurality of users; and

in response to an input by a first user of the plurality of users, display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privilege settings.

It is respectfully asserted that neither Stefik nor Gendreau, whether considered alone or in combination with any of the prior art references of record, anticipates, discloses, teaches or suggests, for example, the limitations recited in independent Claim 10 that the claimed system is programmed to "... in response to an input by a first user of the plurality of users, display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privilege settings."

In rejecting Claim 10 in view of Stefik, the Office Action stated that "Stefik discloses a computer system that is programmed to: ... According to a first set of instructions input by an administrator of an enterprise, designate in a memory accessible by the computer system for a user to be restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests ...." Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5.

However, as compared to the reasoning in the Office Action to support the rejection of Claims 10-14 that "Stefik discloses ... designat[ing] ... a setting for a user to be restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests ...." (Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5), it is respectfully submitted that Stefik discloses attaching usage *rights* for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work. See, e.g., Stefik, paragraph 0041 ("... usage rights are permanently "attached" to the digital work."). It is respectfully submitted that the "user ...restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests" reasoning given in the Office Action for combining Stefik with Gendreau with respect to the rejection of independent Claim 10 (Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5), is misplaced in view of the disclosures of Stefik previously outlined above regarding the attachment of usage rights for particular digital works to the particular existing digital works. In particular, the rejection of Claim 10 cites paragraphs 0065-0067 of Stefik, which state, among other things, that "[i]t is fundamental to the present invention that the usage rights are treated as part of the digital work. As the

digital work is distributed, the scope of the granted usage rights will remain the same or may be narrowed.” Stefik, ¶0065,

As compared to attaching a usage right for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work as disclosed in Stefik, Claim 10 is directed to indicating for each user of a plurality of users, a restriction from taking a particular action, namely, “printing shipping labels.” In particular, Claim 10 recites “...designate in a memory accessible by the computer system, a first set of shipping privilege settings identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests ....”

It is respectfully asserted that the perspective of attaching a Stefik usage right for a particular existing digital work to the particular existing digital work is different from the perspective of Claim 10 of an input by an administrator (for an enterprise) of instructions regarding shipping privilege settings for users within the enterprise identifying the users “...as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests ....” In particular, as described by the Specification regarding an exemplary embodiment, “... the administrator can assign different User privileges. Administrator-established privileges for each particular User controls the functionality available to the particular User. On a Group basis, the System provides the administrator the ability to assign User privileges such as the “... *Ability to print shipping labels vs. traveler labels, by Carrier or by service ...*.” Specification, ¶¶0130 – 0138 (emphasis added). That is, according to the above-cited disclosure of the Specification of the present application describing an exemplary embodiment, the shipping labels for which an administrator would input restrictions, would not yet have been created at the time of the input of the restrictions by the administrator.

Further, as compared to the reasoning to support rejecting Claims 10-14 that “Stefik discloses ... designat[ing] ... a setting for a user to be restricted from printing but capable of submitting requests ....” (Office Action, Topic No. 8, p. 5), it is respectfully submitted that, there is no disclosure in Stefik of the limitation of

Claim 10 of "...identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests ...." The Specification discloses exemplary actions with respect to an exemplary embodiment for submitting pre-processing shipping requests:

The User enters package and shipping information 335 which is stored in the System databases 336. The User requests printing of a traveler label, which the System prints on a printer local to the User 340. The User delivers the package together with the traveler label to the Shipping Station. The Shipping Station then scans in the Traveler Label 341 in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the System's databases 342-344 to populate the shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize the shipping process and complete a shipping label 345-351. This application is used, for example, where Desktop Users have no way of weighing each package.

Specification, paragraph 0448. It is respectfully submitted that there is no disclosure in Stefik of an authorization of a user to submit a pre-processing request.

It is respectfully asserted that, in view of the above-described distinctions between the disclosures of Stefik and the subject matter of independent Claim 10, Stefik, even when combined with Gendreau, does not disclose, anticipate, teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent Claim 10, and therefore does not disclose, anticipate, teach or suggest all of the limitations of the Claims that are dependent on Claim 10, namely, Claims 11-14, and Claim 26, as required under Section 103(a). See also MPEP §2143. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 10, 11-14, and 26 be reversed.

**Issue 3 Argument Regarding the Rejection of Claims 10-14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Gendreau in View of Stefik and Further in View of Kara: There is No Disclosure in Kara, Gendreau or Stefik of Displaying Interactive Graphic User Interface Shipping Selection Options According to Administrative Settings (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii) subheading)**

In addition to the reasons described above with respect to the rejections of Claims 10-14 and 26 under Section 103(a) in view of Gendreau and Stefik, that neither Gendreau nor Stefik disclose, anticipate, teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent Claim 10, it is respectfully asserted, for the reasons described further below, that combining Kara with Stefik and Gendreau still does not disclose, anticipate, teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent Claim 10, and therefore does not disclose, anticipate, teach or suggest all of the limitations of the Claims that are dependent on Claim 10, namely, Claims 11-14, as required under Section 103(a).

Claim 10 is directed to a computer system that is programmed to, in response to an input by a first user of the plurality of users, display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privilege settings. The Specification of the present application discloses exemplary graphic user interface screens that are generated according to, among other things, Administrator settings. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph 259 ("FIG. 28 is a graphic representation of an exemplary Shipping Payment Screen in an exemplary embodiment of the invention that is displayed when a package is to be shipped. The System populates the data fields displayed in the Screen with default information according to the Administrator settings, User preferences ...."); Specification, paragraph 0184, ("The Carrier Info Preferences Screen [depicted in FIG. 18] displays the default Carrier Preference settings established by the Administrator, and to the extent authorized by the Administrator, allows the User to edit the Carrier Preferences."); Specification, paragraph 0186 ("As depicted in FIG. 19, the Drop Off/Pickup Preferences Screen displays the default Drop Off and Pickup locations set by the Administrator. To the extent authorized by the Administrator, the User can edit the Drop Off and Pickup locations. Each Carrier, e.g., 150 USPS, authorized for use by the Administrator, is displayed on the Drop Off/Pickup Preferences Screen.").

In rejecting Claims 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Office Action reasons that "... Kara discloses ... an interactive user interface [that] is displayed for the selection of a carrier ...." Office Action, Topic No. 8.b, p. 6.

It is respectfully asserted that, as compared to the above-recited limitations of independent Claim 10, although Kara discloses an interactive user interface for the selection of a carrier, there is no disclosure in Kara to "...display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privilege settings ..." as recited by independent Claim 10 and as disclosed in the Specification of the present application as outlined above.

FIG. 7 of Kara depicts a user interface display that includes, among other things, process element 712 that is labeled "Class/Urgency" and that contains the description "Select from different choices: first, third, fourth, bulk rate, priority mail, air mail, same day, overnight, next day, 2 days, 3 days". FIG. 8 of Kara depicts a user interface display that includes, among other things, a box 802 providing fields for Weight (Pounds and Ounces), Zone, Class, and a choice of Domestic or International. FIG. 8 of Kara also depicts a box 807, labeled as "Urgency" and containing the choices of "Same day", "Overnight", "Next day", "2 Days", "3 Days", and "Immaterial". The specification of Kara explains that, "[i]n step 712, the user selects the class and/or urgency of the item from the choices shown in box 802 and 807. It shall be appreciated that ones of the selections of class and urgency may substantially overlap and, therefore, selection of such an option from one of boxes 802 or 807 may also make a corresponding selection in the other one of boxes 802 or 807." Kara, col. 21, lines 1-7.

Kara discloses that "class and urgency information may be different for each of the shipping service providers and, accordingly, selection of a particular class[ ] or urgency criteria may be based at least in part on the particular shipping service provider(s) for which the user wishes the ... program to calculate the necessary postage.... Alternatively, the class and urgency information may be presented for selection generically, as shown in FIG. 8, and the ... program



operate to determine the corresponding fees for each of the particular shipping service providers automatically.” Kara, col. 21, lines 8-20.

However, the Office Action does not cite Kara for disclosing, and it is respectfully asserted that Kara does not disclose, “...display[ing] interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options ... according to ... shipping privilege settings ...” “... according to ... instructions input by an administrator ...” as recited by independent Claim 10 and as disclosed in the Specification of the present application as outlined above.


Accordingly, it is respectfully requested, in view of the above-described distinctions between the disclosures of Kara, Stefik and Gendrea, and the subject matter of independent Claim 10, that the rejection of Claims 10, and Claims 11-14 that are dependent on Claim 10, be reversed.

ARGUMENT CONCLUSION

Accordingly, for the above-given reasons and authorities, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 7, 10-14, and 23-26 be reversed. Further, for the reasons and authorities described above, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 7, 10-14, and 23-26 are patentable over the references of record and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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***CLAIMS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(viii) heading)***

***(Double-Spaced as required by MPEP §1205.02)***

**THE CLAIMS ON APPEAL ARE THE PENDING CLAIMS AFTER THE  
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE FILED FEBRUARY 21, 2006 IN RESPONSE  
TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 21, 2005, AND ARE AS  
FOLLOWS:**

7. (Previously Presented) An online, Internet-based, multi-carrier, multi-parcel shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

receive a request by a first user within an enterprise to ship a parcel, wherein the first user is designated in a memory accessible by the computer system as restricted from finalizing shipping labels, wherein the request comprises a set of partial shipment information, and wherein the set of partial shipment information comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information;

in response to the request by the first user to ship the parcel: (A) generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises at least a machine-readable code that corresponds to the request, (B) save in the memory accessible by the computer system, a relationship between the machine-readable code and the set

of partial shipment information, and (C) print the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein said printed printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises an expression of the machine-readable code;

receive an input for finalizing a shipping label for shipping the parcel from a second user within the enterprise, wherein the second user is designated in the memory accessible by the computer system as authorized to finalize shipping labels, wherein said input comprises the machine-readable code;

retrieve from the memory the set of partial shipment information according to the machine-readable code; and

generate a shipping label comprising at least a first item of information from the set of partial shipment information and according to the input from the second user.

10. (Previously Presented) An online, Internet-based, multi-carrier, multi-parcel shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

according to a first set of instructions input by an administrator of an enterprise, designate in a memory accessible by the computer system, a first set of shipping privilege settings identifying each user of a plurality of users within the enterprise as restricted from printing shipping labels but authorized to submit pre-processing shipping requests;

according to a second set of instructions input by the administrator, designate in the memory, a second set of shipping privilege settings identifying at

least a second user within the enterprise as authorized to print shipping labels according to a pre-processing shipping request by any user of the plurality of users; and

in response to an input by a first user of the plurality of users, display interactive graphic user interface shipping selection options to the first user according to the first set of shipping privilege settings.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 10, said computer system further programmed to:

recognize as a particular pre-processing shipping request to generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, a particular request input by the first user of the plurality of users to ship a particular package, wherein the particular request to ship the particular package comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information;

generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises at least a machine-readable code;

save in the memory accessible by the computer system a relationship between the machine-readable code and the particular request to ship the particular package; and

print the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label, wherein said printed printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises an

expression of the machine-readable code.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 10, said computer system further programmed to:

receive a particular pre-processing shipping request by a first user of the plurality of users to ship a particular package, wherein the particular pre-processing shipping request comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information;

generate an internal system tracking number in response to the particular pre-processing shipping request by the first user; and

save said internal system tracking number corresponding to the pre-processing shipping request in the memory.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 10, said computer system further programmed to:

receive a particular pre-processing shipping request by a first user of the plurality of users to ship a particular package, wherein the particular pre-processing shipping request comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information; and

generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label containing partial shipment information in response to the particular pre-processing shipping request by the first user, wherein the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler

label comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 12, said computer system further programmed to:

generate a printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label in response to the particular pre-processing shipping request by the first user, wherein the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprises: (A) a bar-coded expression of the internal system tracking number, and (B) a machine-readable expression of a set of partial shipment information, wherein the set of partial shipment information comprises at least one of: a destination name, a destination address, a return name, a return address, or package information.

23. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 7, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(1) generate for the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label the machine-readable code.

24. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 23, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

recognize as a completion request for the completion of the request by the first user to ship the parcel, a scan by the second user of the expression of the

machine-readable code from the printed printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label.

25. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 24, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:  
complete the request by the first user to ship the parcel with information input by the second user.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 13, said computer system further programmed to:

generate a system tracking number in response to the particular pre-processing shipping request by the first user; and

generate the printable bar-coded pre-processing traveler label comprising a representation of a machine-readable expression of a system tracking number for tracking the parcel within the enterprise.

***EVIDENCE APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(ix) heading)***

A copy of Gendreau (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0034608; "Gendreau") as relied on in the final Office Action dated May 26, 2006 is attached hereto.

A copy of Stefik et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0115144; "Stefik") as relied on in the final Office Action dated May 26, 2006 is attached hereto.

A copy of Kara (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,568; "Kara") as relied on in the final Office Action dated May 26, 2006 is attached hereto.